



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service**

Dear Agriculture Educator:

We are happy to provide you with a copy of the *Agriculture Counts Lesson Plans* which are designed to incorporate agriculture into your curriculum. The lessons are structured for grades kindergarten through 12. Our goal is to create fun lessons that incorporate agriculture into English, math, geography, science, and social studies.

These lessons use surveys and censuses as the basis for showing why agricultural statistics are important in today's world. As information becomes more important in our daily lives, we must continue to teach each other where to find prime sources of reliable and complete data. The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is the best choice for agricultural data. Agricultural operators, agribusinesses, elected officials, and government and private agencies use the official statistics produced by NASS for making decisions that affect all of us.

NASS is the Agency responsible for conducting hundreds of weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual surveys on production, economic and environmental topics. NASS prepares reports covering virtually every facet of U.S. agriculture. The abundance of information produced has earned NASS the title, "The Fact Finders of Agriculture."

One of the major reports produced by NASS, the 5-year census of agriculture, is the only source of uniform, comprehensive data about American agriculture at the national, State, and county level. The strength of the census is its provision of local statistics, including facts about minor crops and livestock specialties, economic structure, and operator demographics.

We would like to give special thanks to Pat Thompson, Curriculum Coordinator, Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom, Oklahoma State University for creating the lesson plans.

If you need further census or survey data or assistance, please call our Agricultural Statistics Hotline at 1-800-727-9540 or visit our web site at www.usda.gov/nass/. These lesson plans and more are available on the web site. Thank you for including the lesson plans in your instructional plans, and for helping to show our future leaders that **Agriculture Counts!**

Sincerely,

R. Ronald Boserker
Administrator



NASS - Fact Finders for Agriculture
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